

WASHINGTON CRITIC



EVERY EVENING.
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WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 23, 1899.

AMUSEMENTS.
ALBANY.—"The Henrietta."
NATIONAL.—"Miss Esmeralda."
BROAD.—"My Partner."
KIDNEY.—Leavitt's Folly Co.
GROUNDS.—Battle of Shiloh and Uffers' Royal Midgits.

THE COMMISSIONERSHIP.

The confirmation of William B. Webb to succeed himself as Commissioner of the District of Columbia is something the Senate will not err in granting. There have been attacks on Mr. Webb, but only from those inspired by personal motives, and he is the undoubted choice for the place of the better class of citizens. The business community want him. Those who have at heart the interests of the District want him.

No stronger endorsement in favor of a citizen of Washington has ever been presented to Congress than that asking the confirmation of Mr. Webb. He was born in Washington, grew to manhood here, is known to everybody, and has the respect and confidence of all classes. He is a patriotic citizen of the District, and earnest and enthusiastic in advancing its progress. He has while in office won the regard of Congress and can exert a just influence with that body, because his good judgment is relied upon. Not to confirm him would be an error.

No new man could perform the duties of Commissioner as well as Mr. Webb. His three years' experience has made him familiar with the needs of the District, as he was previously with its laws. Webb's Digest being an acknowledged authority. He has served faithfully, has little more than begun a career of usefulness in the place he occupies and should by all means be allowed to continue it. It is, in one respect, a simple business proposition. No commercial house would discharge a tried and efficient head of a department for a mere whim and to make place for some amateur in the work, and the same law of common sense which applies to private matters applies to public affairs. To dispense with the services of such a man would be a folly.

Some of his assailants have claimed that Mr. Webb is not as radical a Republican as he should be and there should be objection to his confirmation on such ground. The assertion is simply and unqualifiedly false. Mr. Webb was staunch and true at a time when to be a Republican meant something in the District of Columbia; staunch when his present defamers were time-serving shirkers of duty, and he has always remained so. This critic does not believe that partisanship should exist in the management of District affairs, and since the question has been raised, it is well that the facts should be put squarely.

What is to be considered is simply whether or not William B. Webb, nominated for the District Commissionership, is the man for the place and the choice of a majority of the people of the District. He has shown his ability and trustworthiness in the position already; he has the experience, which doubly qualifies him; he is desired by the respectable portion of the community. His confirmation should certainly follow.

MARY ANDERSON is reported to have been in town recently because some critic discovered that she was not active. Mary Anderson should not cry; she should rather be very grateful that the public didn't discover the same thing a long time ago.

A NEW HAMPSHIRE heir gets \$5,000 a year and a quarter of a million additionally every year on condition that he keep silent. This is the highest price, probably, ever paid to a man for being good to himself.

GOVERNOR WILSON and General Goff of West Virginia having agreed to a compromise, the earnest people of that far from prairie State may begin to think about their spring plowing.

The British view is that the dismissal of Lord Sackville was unequalled for and in bad taste—a mere piece of politics. The melancholy fact is, too, that the British view is about right.

AN ASS was what General Rosser made of himself in his speech at Baltimore last night when he declared that "a Southern gentleman can whip a puritanical Yankee any time."

THE TARIFF REFORM Convention in Chicago and its tally to Mr. Cleveland are somewhat in the nature of cold baked meats after the funeral.

CHARLES A. DANA and Muriel Halstead have organized the Rust-Cleveland or Bust Trust and have begun operations in New York and Cincinnati.

SAM RANDALL, the same old Sam, is a very large and influential man in the Democratic party at present.

MR. DANA and Mr. Cleveland will not speak as they pass by when Mr. C. moves to New York.

SENATOR KENNA and Governor Goff are the most prominent citizens of West Virginia.

MR. ROGER Q. MILLIS should ship himself into his tariff bill and get reformed.

SENATOR BLACKBURN seems bound to re-elect Senator Chandler.

A CANADIAN ORATOR, speaking before the Union League Club in Chicago, said

that the term "annexation" was most distasteful to Canadian ears. This is not surprising. The term "union" used in American newspapers would be more suitable and courteous and induce a better feeling.

IT IS REPORTED now that Prince Alexander of Battenberg is to marry an opera singer. From the Queen of England's daughter to a daughter of the stage is a great step, but there may be the lack of a mother-in-law as an offset.

THE HARRISONS are packing up their furniture in Indianapolis, preparatory to coming to Washington, but so far nobody has seen anything of Mr. H.'s cabinet in any of the wagons.

GOVERNOR LEE of Virginia believes in a white man's government for Virginia. If the colored brother should become an enthusiastic Democrat, the Governor's belief might undergo a partial change.

WHEN THE DOORS of Mr. Harrison's Cabinet are opened the odor of the wild and woolly West will slowly but surely exude and permeate the circumambient atmosphere.

CRITICAL.

BLACKBURN VS. CHANDLER.

Have you heard of the fight in Committee? How Blackburn and Chandler in fine Old English derided each other.

And Joseph climbed William's spine?

Or, rather, how Joe of Kentucky,

Neglecting the spine of his dear

Old friend from the wilds of New Hamp-

shire,

Devoted himself to his ear.

They say it was perfectly awful

When Joseph got in his wild nip

On the aural appendage of William,

And nothing could loosen his grip;

Till Faulkner came up to the rescue,

And, after the fashion, you know,

Of stopping a dog fight, he emptied

A bucket of water on Joe.

Of course, to a man from Kentucky,

The hydropath treatment is tough;

And Joseph let it in a hurry,

For one dose was plenty enough.

Except for the foresight of Faulkner,

'Tis said by the persons who know,

That nothing beneath the blue heavens

Could have led us of Mr. Blackburn let go.

And now let us sing of his glory—

Cold water and not Bourbon straight!

For Blackburn is damped in ardor,

And Chandler is saved to the State.

The soldier gets there by feats of arms,

While the pedestrian gets there by feats of feet.

If it had been Judge Rucker in committee

And not Senator Chandler what would Senator

Blackburn have done?

Well bred people are not always the

upper crust.

In Society:

"Don't you want a man of mind when

you marry?" asked a K-street girl of a

friend.

"Not particularly," was the reply. "I

want a man to mind, though, and if he

doesn't—well, he'll hear from me pretty

quick."

Noble and Filley.

(St. Louis Republic.)

Notwithstanding the attack made by General

Noble on Mr. Filley in the Republican

State League Convention held in this city

last December, the claim is made that the

incoming Secretary of the Interior favors

Mr. Filley's claim to the postmaster-

ship. A prominent Republican stated yester-

day that he had heard General Noble remark

that Filley should have the postoffice.

Mr. Filley some time ago came to the con-

clusion to lay low and say nothing, and he

has kept his resolution. Very few of those

who call at his Belmont street residence

are granted an audience. He has discussed the

outlook with only his immediate friends

and they loudly proclaim that "the old

man" will be well taken care of, with-

standing adverse reports.

Our Isthmus Rights.

(St. Louis Globe-Democrat.)

The appropriation of \$250,000 for the pro-

tection of American rights on the Isthmus

of Panama is entirely justifiable. We have

certain treaty rights in that country which

are very important, and a great deal of

American capital has been invested there

under guarantees which our Government

is bound to insist upon at any cost. It may

be that no occasion will arise for a resort

to extreme measures; but the interests at

stake are so valuable that it is proper to

provide means for defending them in case

it should become necessary.

Is Divorce a Failure?

(Omaha Republican.)

Marriage may be a failure, but what is

divorce? Chicago, they have machines

in the slot of which a man may drop a

nickel and secure a divorce, and yet it is

the prevailing fashion among Chicago hus-

bands to shoot their wives and then them-

selves.

May Pull Himself.

(Boston Herald.)

The New York Tribune holds out a rather

dismal prospect to General Harrison. It

claims that the general is being pulled in

two ways, hauled that way, and shoved 't'her

way. Supposing General Harrison should

take a notion to do the pulling and haul-

ing and shoving himself? That would be

rather more dignified.

Treading on Truth.

(Terre Haute Express.)

Little Johnny (reading the paper for

grandpa): "Doings of the Diplomatic

Corps."

Grandpa—Good Lord! Won't they ever

let up on Bayard?

Necessity for Caution.

(Chicago Herald.)

If Messrs. Cleveland and Edgerton do

not have a care, the present Administration

will go out with a bad taste in its mouth.

GIRLS WHO ARE IN DEMAND.

The girls that are wanted are good girls—

girls who are mother's right hand.

Pure as the lily is white and pure.

From its heart to its sweet lips.

The girls that are wanted are home girls—

girls who are mother's right hand.

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